

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02686 210517Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /074 W
-----210520Z 019947 /11

R 210429Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 444
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2686

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: INDIA IN PAKISTAN POLITICS (AND VICE VERSA)

REFERENCE: A. NEW DELHI 3581 B. NEW DELHI 3725 C. NEW DELHI
3104

1. PAK PRESS EARLIER IN WEEK REPORTED PM GANDHI'S CAMPAIGN
REMARKS ON PAKISTAN (REF A) IN STORY WHICH ALSO GAVE JANATA
LEADER A.B. VAJPAYEE'S RETORT THAT SHE WAS TRYING TO RAISE
THE "BOGEY OF AN EXTERNAL THREAT." MRS. GANDHI'S AMBIGUOUS
REMARKS SEEMED GENERALLY TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED UNTIL THIS
MORNING, WHEN GOVERNMENT'S PAKISTAN TIMES BLOSSOMED FORTH
WITH A LARGE FRONT PAGE ADVERTISEMENT, IN URDU. THE AD,
LATEST IN A DAILY SERIES PLACED BY A PAPER ORGANIZATION
(READ GOP) TO SUPPORT BHUTTO IN HIS PRESENT CONFRONTATION
WITH THE OPPOSITION, SEIZED ON INDIRA'S WORDS, INCLUDING
THE REERENCE TO THE THOUSAND YEAR WAR (BHUTTO PRE-1972
VINTAGE), AS PROOF THAT HE HAS PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS SCARED
AND SHOULD BE KEPT IN POWER. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC
GOP COMMENT ON MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS, OR ON ANY OTHER
ASPECT OF THE INDIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. OUR DISCUSSIONS
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02686 210517Z

AT MFA STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER
TO SEE MRS. GANDHI CARRY ON IN A STRONG POSITION, BUT THE
GOP HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO KEEP ITS OPINIONS QUIET.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN COVERAGE IN THE PRESS HERE
OF THE INDIAN ELECTIONS, POPULAR AND EDITORIAL INTERST
HAS BEEN DIVERTED BY PAKISTAN'S OWN POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

WE NOTE THAT THE MASS-CIRCULATION PRO-OPPOSIZION NAWA-I-WAQT WAS CRITICAL OF MRS. GANDHI IN A LEADING EDITORIAL EARLIER THIS WEEK. THIS REFLECTED THE PAPER'S CONSISTENT POSITION AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM, AND WAS AS MUCH A COMMENT ON PAKISTAN OMESTIC AFFAIRS AS IT WAS ON INDIA'S.

3. AS WE REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE PAKISTAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS GENERALLY AND INDIA IN PARTICULAR NEVER AROSE AS ISSUES. MEA'S ASSESSMENT, REPORTED IN REWUC, IS BASICALLY ACCURATE IN STATING THAT INDO-PAK RELATIONS DID NOT BECOME AN ISSUE. BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS TO SOME EXTENT THE INDIAN EMBASSY'S (NATURAL) OVERATTENTION TO PPP AND OPPOSITION COMMENT ON INDIA DURING THE CAMPAIGN. THESE COMMENTS WERE BURIED UNDER EXCHANGES ON DDXESTIC ISSUES AND PERSONALITIES AND WERE LITTLE NOTED HERE. IN ADDITION

TO THE OCCASIONAL ALLEGATION BY THE OPPOSITION THAT BHUTTO WAS SOFT ON INDIA, AND THE COUNTER BY THE PPP THAT HE WAS TOUGH, (NO ONE, OF COURSE, HAD ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT INDIA), THE PPP ALSO SOUGHT FROM TIME TO TIME TO BRAND ITS OPPONENTS AS DISLOYAL TO PAKISTAN (IN 1947, 1965, 1969, ETC.) AND THUS SOMEHOW IN LEAGUE WITH THE HINDUS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND THE INDIANS AFTERWARDS. A NUMBER WERE MORE DIRECTLY ACCUSED OF BEING INDIAN AGENTS. BUT THIS TOO IS PAR FOR THE PAK POLITICAL COURSE, AND DOES

NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CUT MUCH ICE HERE.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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